

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Major Issues Face Congress

Lawmakers to Deal with Strikes, Housing, National Defense and Other Questions

THE American spotlight is now focused on the new session of Congress. Seldom, if ever, in the peacetime history of our country have the nation's lawmakers been faced with more momentous problems, both at home and abroad, than they are now. Our future security and well-being may depend to a large extent upon the decisions which are reached by Congress and the President during the next two years. Hence this period is a crucial one.

It is not exactly accurate, of course, to refer to the present period as part of our "peacetime history." Officially, we are still at war. The government has not yet declared the nation to be in a state of peace.

So long as this situation continues, the President can take action which he is not permitted to take when the country is officially at peace. Under his special war powers, he can authorize the government to seize control of vital industries, when they are crippled by strikes, and operate them until satisfactory agreements can be reached between employers and workers. At the present time, as we know, the government is managing the soft-coal mines of the nation. It will continue to do so until the operators and union officials can work out their differences.

The President's war powers enable him to deal with almost any kind of emergency which might arise. He

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TIME TO MAKE A CHOICE

Shall billions upon billions of dollars be spent each year for armaments and other preparations for war, or shall these vast sums be spent to promote progress and prosperity?

The World Tries to Disarm

The United Nations Takes Up Important Disarmament Problem and Agreement on Difficult Issues Improves the Prospect of Success

THE United Nations is hard at work on one of the greatest and most difficult problems of mankind. The nations of the world are trying to agree on a program of disarmament. This problem is not a new one. Many centuries have passed since the appeal, "Beat your swords into plowshares," was first heard by the peoples of the earth.

This appeal, though often repeated, has been unheeded. Throughout history people everywhere have groaned under the weight of armaments. The small savings which might have supplied better houses, more food and clothing, needed comforts and higher standards of living, have been taken

by governments and used, not to improve civilization, but to make weapons to kill neighboring peoples. This is the chief reason why the earth has always been in such a sorry state, why millions have lived and still live, in poverty and fear.

Not until the last half century have serious efforts been made to grapple with the problem of disarmament. In 1899, at the invitation of the Czar of Russia, representatives of 27 nations met at The Hague, in Holland, to see what could be done about it. Briefly stated, nothing was done. The prospect for world peace seemed very bright at that time, and the necessity of limiting armaments was not seen.

Storm clouds were gathering when, in 1907, another disarmament conference was held at The Hague. War in Europe was brewing then—a war which might have been prevented if the nations had agreed to limit the size of their armies and navies. But warnings were unheeded. No action was taken. The armament race went on, and, seven years later, the world was plunged into a war costly in lives and treasure.

The First World War ended in 1918, and the victorious Allies organized the League of Nations. They compelled Germany and the nations associated with her in the war to disarm, and pledged themselves to work out a plan for cutting down their own military programs. For several years they debated the problem, but did not come to an agreement.

Meanwhile, the United States, though not a member of the League, undertook to do something, on a limited scale, to bring about a reduction of armaments. In 1921 our government called a conference in Washington to discuss the reduction of naval forces.

An agreement was finally reached. We agreed to build only a certain number of battleships, cruisers, and other classes of large naval vessels. Great Britain was to have the same number and Japan three-fifths as many. Italy and France were allowed smaller quotas.

This treaty was to last for 10 years. At the end of that period the nations were to be free either to continue the arrangement, to scrap it, or to make some other arrangement. There was much wrangling during these years. Japan finally demanded that she be given the right to build a navy as large as that of the United States. Our government rejected the

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A New Link in the Chain

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

EVERY year is a link in a chain which, when completed, will be your life. You have already welded a number of links. One of them you have just finished. Are you satisfied with it? If all the links which you fashion are like the one labeled "1946", what kind of chain will you have? What kind of life?

How much real progress have you made since January, 1946? Have you learned since then to organize your time better; to study more efficiently? Did you acquire useful information last year in such fields as mathematics, mechanics, home economics, science, literature, history or current affairs?

As a result of all that you learned have your days become more interesting? Do you have more to talk about when you engage in conversation? Did you acquire knowledge which will help

you in some vocation, or which will make you a better citizen? Are you reading more than you did for pleasure or for information?

If you can answer "yes" to these questions you did well with the year 1946. Your job is to go on with the good work of gaining a well rounded education. If the answer is "no", the year that has just been finished is a poor link in your chain. You need to repair the weaknesses and to do some careful thinking about the course you are following.

Don't get the idea that you will do sloppy work this year and then change your habits and go in the other direction later on. Conditions are as favorable now as they will ever be. The temptation to let things slide will be as strong next year and the next as they are today.

If you are satisfied to make 1947 a weak link there is no good reason to hope that you will have higher standards for 1948 and 1949. If you continue to put into the links less than you can and

should, there is danger that after a while you will have on your hands a chain which is beyond repair; a chain which is pitifully weak and ineffective.

But efficiency is not the only goal in life. Character is also essential. Be reliable, friendly, unselfish, and cooperative. Banish unkind words and thoughtless acts which produce discord or unhappiness in the home or school or neighborhood. Find out how to live pleasantly without marring the pleasure of others.

Be a good citizen of your community, your country, the world. These are troubled times through which we are passing. Difficult and dangerous problems rise before us. The help of all is needed if we are to go forward to enduring peace, stability and progress.

You need not, cannot, weld the chain of life together in a few brief months, but you can make of 1947 a link which will serve as a pattern for all the years to come.

Congress

(Continued from page 1)

will be deprived of this special authority within six months after the war is officially declared to be at an end. When should this action be taken?

Some members of Congress feel that the President's war powers should be ended at once. They point out that the country is actually at peace, and hence that the government's authority should be restored to a normal basis without delay.

Other members of Congress reply to this argument by saying that, even though the war is over, the emergency brought on by the world conflict is not yet ended. Until it definitely is, they argue, the President and the military authorities should not be placed in a situation where they may be unable to insure the safety of the nation.

This conflict of opinion is expected to be thoroughly aired in Congress during the weeks ahead. It is one of the big issues to be settled.

Another outstanding problem is what Congress should do about industrial disputes. There are always more strikes after a war than there are in ordinary times, but the year 1946 was the worst on record in this respect. More working time was lost as a result of strikes than during any year in the past. The strife cost billions of dollars in wages and profits, and it caused widespread hardship for the entire nation.

Action by Congress?

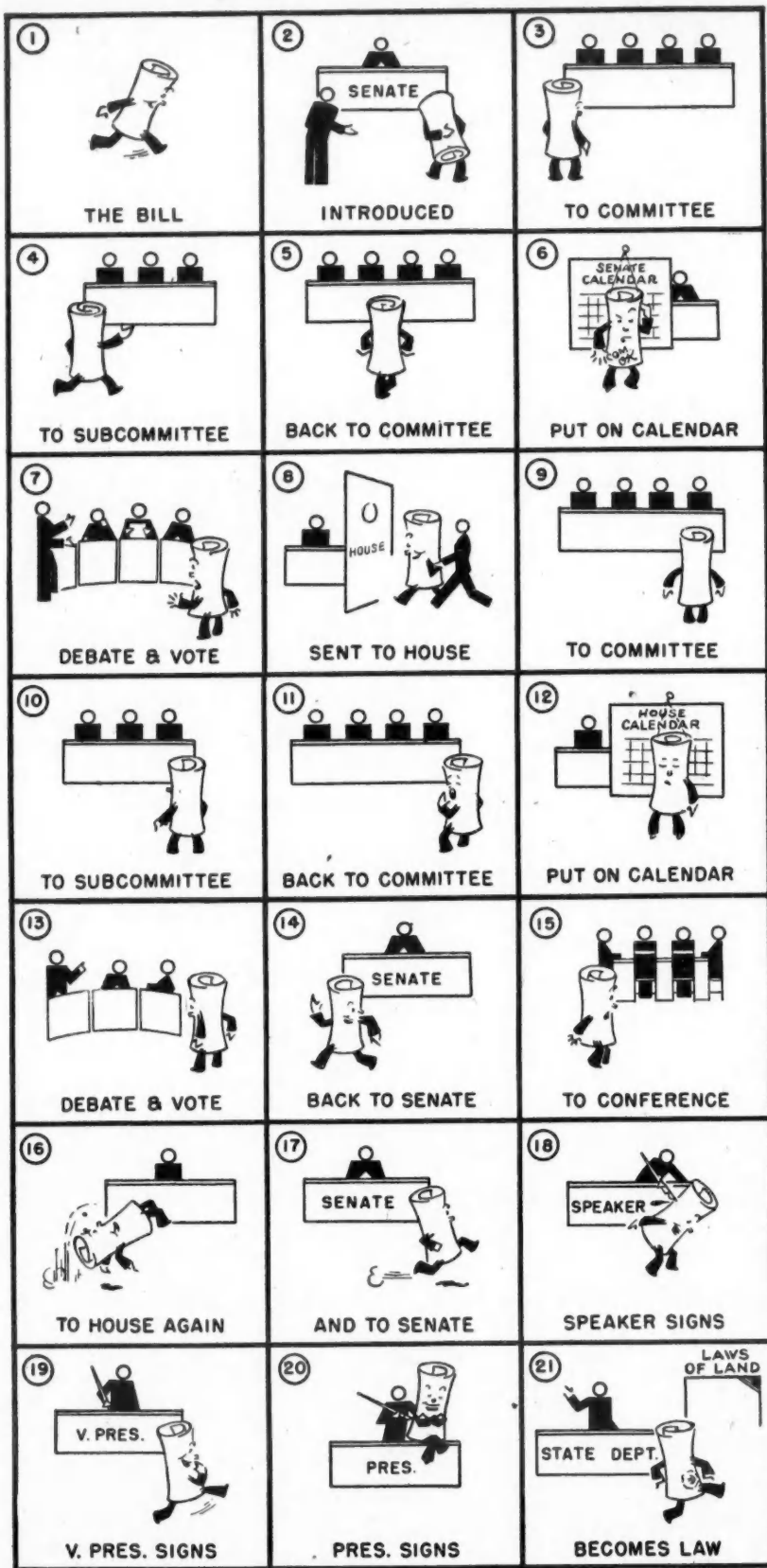
A number of senators and representatives are determined that action be taken during this session of Congress to make certain that large-scale industrial disputes are settled by orderly methods. A number of bills along this line will be introduced.

Some of these measures provide that employers and workers must negotiate for a considerable period, perhaps two or three months, before a strike can be called. Others will seek to compel labor and management in important industries to take their cases to "arbitration boards" or "industrial courts." The decisions of these boards or courts would be binding on both parties in industrial conflicts.

There are certain to be heated conflicts over plans of this kind. There will also be a sharp controversy over attempts to make changes in the National Labor Relations Act, commonly known as the Wagner Act. We described this law in the last issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER*, and we presented the arguments for and against it.

In brief, it strongly protects the right of workers to organize into unions, and compels employers to negotiate with unions about wages, hours, and other working conditions. Those who oppose it in its present form contend that it is too favorable to labor. They say that it safeguards workers against unfair practices by employers, but that it does not protect employers from labor abuses.

Supporters of the law as it is now written reply that it is fair and that there should be no changes made in it. The nation's industrial and business leaders, they argue, are in a much stronger position than workers, even those who are organized. Thus, it is said, the Wagner Act is needed to maintain a better balance of power between the two groups.



When a bill is introduced in the Senate, this is the long journey it takes through Congress

Another big question before Congress involves taxes and government spending. Whether or not a serious dispute develops over this issue will depend upon how much money President Truman thinks the government should spend and collect in taxes during the coming year. He will express his views on this subject when he delivers his budget message to Congress in a few days from now.

During the government's present bookkeeping year, national expenses will amount to 41 billion dollars. Nearly half of this sum is being spent for military purposes.

Most of the Republicans are determined to make sharp cuts both in government spending and taxes. Certain leaders of this party feel that present yearly expenses of 41 billions can be cut to 30. They say that if this is done, and if the benefits are passed on to people in the form of lower taxes, everyone will be better

off. People and businesses, with their tax burden lightened, will have more money to spend, and thus American industry will prosper.

This point of view is not shared by certain members of Congress. They think that national expenses can be cut a few billion dollars, but they fear that any greater reduction would prevent the government from rendering the vital services which are required by the country. Moreover, they say, any savings that can be made should be used to begin making payments on the 270-billion-dollar national debt rather than to lighten the present burden of taxpayers.

If the President and the majority in Congress come into conflict over this issue, Congress is bound to win out. It has the "power of the purse." It makes the final decisions as to how much the government departments and agencies shall spend, and how much shall be collected in taxes.

A third problem which is certain to receive much attention from the new Congress is that of national defense. The United Nations is now working on a plan by which all countries may agree to reduce the size of their armed forces. If this move is successful, the United States will not have to spend so much money on its Army and Navy.

Until a definite disarmament plan is in operation, however, Congress must decide how large an Army and Navy we should maintain. It must consider whether the Selective Service system should be kept in operation, and whether it would be better to merge the Army and Navy or keep them as separate forces.

In addition to answering such questions as these, Congress must also make up its mind whether the government's housing program is a wise one. Since the end of the war, the government has made a considerable effort to speed the building of more homes—especially for veterans.

Large sums of public money have been spent to encourage the production of building materials and to help factories which are adopting assembly-line methods in constructing houses. The government has ordered that most of the available building materials be used solely for dwellings rather than for stores, theaters, and other commercial structures. It has also set a \$10,000 limit on the price which could be charged for homes.

Several weeks ago, however, President Truman decided that the government should reduce its housing assistance and relax its controls over the construction industry. The price ceiling on new dwellings has been raised, more commercial building is now permitted, and the government is cutting down on its aid and special benefits to home-building factories.

Motive for Change

The idea behind this change in the government's program is that the private construction industry will do more building if it is freer of public regulation, and if it is permitted to charge higher prices for homes. Critics of the changed policy say that builders will now concentrate more on commercial structures and less on homes, since profits are higher in the former field. They also claim that housing prices will be out of reach of the majority of veterans and other people who are desperately in need of decent places to live.

Congress will go into the matter of housing, both from the temporary and long-range standpoints. The temporary problem is that there simply are not enough dwellings available at the present time to supply the need. Consequently, thousands of homes which ordinarily have only one family in each of them now have two or three. It will be at least several years longer before this temporary housing shortage is solved.

The long-range problem involves the millions of people who live in slums and other improper dwellings, not on a temporary basis but permanently. The government, in recent years, has cooperated with many towns and cities in providing public, low-rental dwellings for families that could not otherwise afford decent housing. Should it continue this program. If so, on how large a scale?

One other major issue which will be debated in Congress concerns the matter of foreign aid and relief. Since the war, the United States has pro-

DRAWING FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

vided extensive assistance to a number of countries hard hit by the war. Our government has given money with which food, clothing, medicines, and building supplies could be purchased for them. We have also made loans to some of the countries.

At the present time, American aid to foreign nations is costing us about 4 billion dollars a year. The attempt will be made in Congress to cut this sum by more than half. Those who favor such a reduction say that we simply cannot afford the costs any longer—that most nations are now at the place where they can begin to stand on their own feet.

Americans who oppose the cutting down of foreign assistance contend that we must continue to help certain countries until they have recovered to a greater extent from the war. If we don't, it is said, the people of these lands, in their desperation, will turn increasingly to radical and dangerous leaders. We can help to strengthen the democratic forces abroad, continues the argument, by keeping up our financial aid. Those who take this position point out that the present cost of foreign assistance for an entire year is no more than we spent in a couple of weeks during the war.

These are some of the more significant problems which will be considered by Congress. It will, of course, deal with scores of other questions and issues. Before buckling down to the actual task of lawmaking, however, both the Senate and the House will spend a few days in getting organized. After choosing their leaders and members of committees, they will be ready to go to work in earnest.

Success of the nation's lawmaking machinery during this year and next will depend in large measure upon the ability of a Republican-controlled Congress and a Democratic President to work together. When the government has been divided in this way in the past, it has accomplished very little. The American people are hoping that the situation will be different this time. (See additional stories on Congress which appear on pages 4 and 5.)

The United Nations approved plans to spend \$24,000,000 for its work this year. While this may seem to be a large sum of money, it is less than one-tenth of what the United States alone spent on World War II for one day.



People of the Far East have less respect for the people of the Western world as a result of events during and since the war

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"If the Atomic Bomb Had Not Been Used," by Karl T. Compton, *The Atlantic*.

It is easy to look back now and say that we could have won the war without using the atomic bomb. But could we? And, if so, at what cost?

Just after V-J Day, a Japanese Army officer sized up the situation this way. "Without the bomb," he said, "you Americans would have had to invade our homeland. We could not have held you off permanently, but we would have kept on fighting until all Japanese were killed."

The atomic bomb was a cruel weapon, but then, all weapons—all modern warfare—are cruel. The bombs which fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killed a great many helpless people. But we have good reason to believe that without these bombs, the Japanese would not have surrendered. If they had not, our victory would have entailed months more of fighting and probably a larger total of casualties in the end.

"What Do the Russians Read?" by Mark North, *Everybody's*, London.

The Russians have very little opportunity to find out about the rest of the world from their newspapers. Only the back page of a Soviet journal is devoted to foreign news. Here the Russian reader finds communiques from international conferences, the texts of treaties, and other items concerning the international scene. But the news is carefully censored and there is only a limited coverage of happenings abroad.

Soviet censors welcome extensive foreign news in only two fields—science and sports. The Russians are intensely interested in sports and want to hear about athletic events in other countries.

Science news from abroad is found mainly in technical magazines, of which there are nearly a thousand in Russia. In the regular press, Russian science is stressed almost to the exclusion of foreign news reports.



Karl Compton, an outstanding American scientist, defends our use of the atomic bomb in World War II.

In spite of the limited amount of news about other countries, Russian readers are deeply interested in life outside their own borders. Editions of foreign classics are extremely popular in Russia. The works of Dickens, Shaw, Wilde, Byron, Wells, Scott, and Galsworthy are always in demand. The writings of living foreign authors, however, are seldom available to Russian readers, although a few are.

"The West Loses 'Face' in the East," by Robert Trumbull, *New York Times Magazine*.

The white man has "lost face" in the Orient. Colonial uprisings show it, and it can also be seen in the changed attitude of Asiatic peoples from India to the Philippines. Instead of the old, humble spirit, the Orientals show an independent—often arrogant—attitude.

There are several reasons why the white man's power in the Far East is waning. At the root of it, of course, is the Asiatic resentment against years of western domination. The war brought this feeling out in the open. Japanese propaganda, "Asia for the Asiatics," fanned the flames. And when the other Eastern peoples saw Japan's victories early in the war, they gained new confidence in themselves.

Although Japan has been defeated, the new mood of the Oriental world has not disappeared. The Asiatics mean to press harder than ever for self-government. The western powers cannot hope to turn back the clock by violence. They must work out some way of getting along with these people on a new basis—one which gives them the independence and self-respect they crave.

"New Labor Laws Must Not Be Punitive," editorial, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

Punishing labor with harsh new laws will not solve the problem of industrial disputes. What we need is a law which recognizes labor and management as a team and gives them equal rights and responsibilities.

It has been clear for a long time that we need a new basic law governing industrial relations. The Wagner Act covers only part of the problem. It was designed to protect labor unions which, at the time it was enacted, were badly in need of protection. But

it did not take into consideration the needs of industry as a whole. It made it possible for self-seeking labor leaders to pursue their own ends at the expense of the public.

We should not throw out the benefits of the Wagner Act. But these benefits should not be permitted to cripple industry and thus hurt the public, which includes workers.

"We Can Kill the Common Cold!" by J. D. Ratcliff, *This Week*.

There is still no sure cure for the common cold and no guaranteed way to prevent it. But there are new ways of killing cold germs and thus reducing the danger of infection.

For example, experiments have shown that both ultra-violet light and glycol vapors are deadly to cold germs. Ultra-violet rays burn up the germs rapidly. A few drops of vaporized glycol—a wartime discovery—can clear a room of flu, scarlet fever, mumps, and measles germs as well as those which bring on the costly and uncomfortable common cold.

Neither ultra-violet light nor glycol vapor is extremely expensive. A movie house could be kept free of cold germs by glycol vapor for \$50 a month—a small price indeed, considering that colds cost the American people two



Medical scientists say there would be fewer colds if the air in public buildings were cleansed by ultra-violet rays. The rays kill cold germs.

billion dollars a year in medical bills and lost wages.

Cold germs can also be controlled by eliminating dust. Army doctors found a thin film of oil applied to walls, floors, and furniture helpful. Instead of floating for hours on dust particles, cold germs are caught in the oil and die.

"GOP and Housing," by Peter Edson, *Chicago Daily News* columnist.

The question of what's wrong with the nation's housing program has become sadly confused. Pressure groups in Washington are flinging accusations at each other from all sides.

What's the real story? Nobody knows, and the only way to find out is to make a large-scale, non-partisan investigation of the housing situation. Such a survey was made on rubber when a crisis arose back in 1942. This report served as the basis for a successful new national rubber policy during the war years.

The Republican party in Congress should make a speedy investigation of the true housing situation. It can then tackle the problem effectively.

The Story of the Week

Supreme Court to Decide

Will the recent coal strike cost the United Mine Workers a fine of \$3,500,000? Will John L. Lewis, head of the miners' union, have to pay a fine of \$10,000?

The answers to these questions will soon be given by the U. S. Supreme Court. Next week it is to review the decision of a lower court which imposed these fines on Lewis and his union because they disobeyed an injunction (court order) to halt their strike temporarily.

John L. Lewis, in his defense, relies on a federal law which prohibits a judge from preventing strikes by court order or injunction. His critics point out, however, that this law refers to disputes between employers and workers. Since the government is in charge of the mines, they say, the court had a right to issue its injunction and Lewis should have obeyed it.

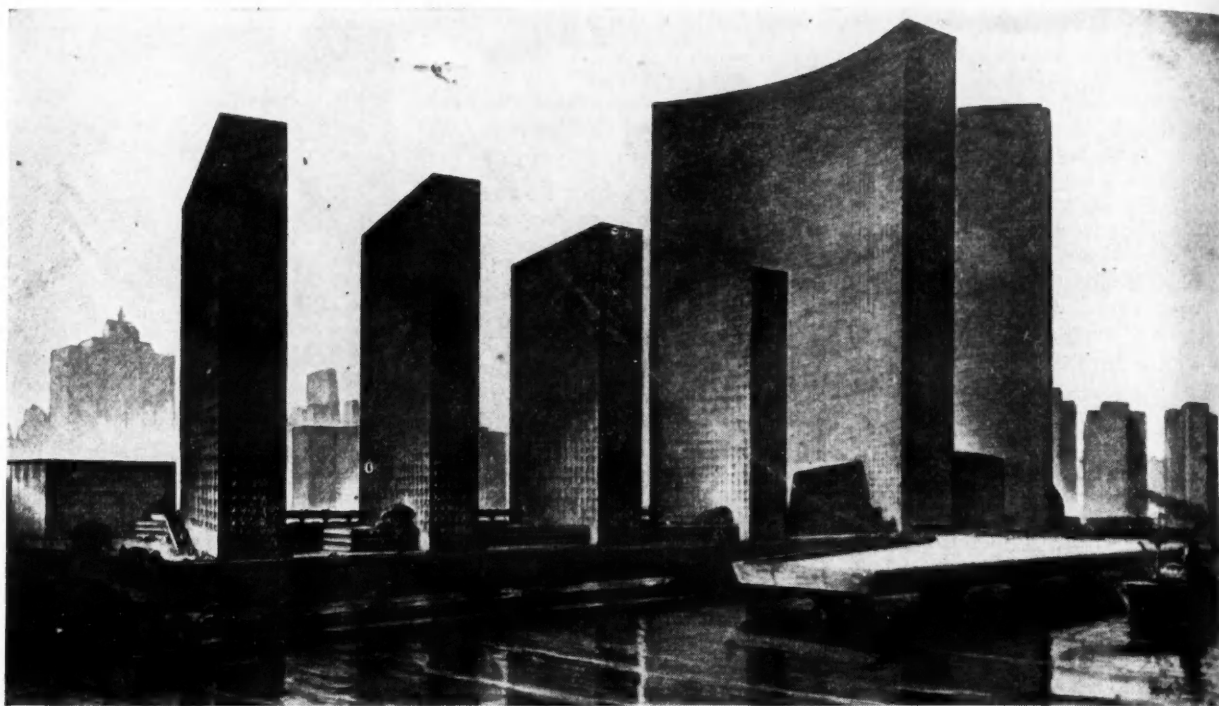
The Supreme Court will have to decide whether the government is actually an employer when it takes over an industry in an emergency. Meanwhile, the attempt is still being made to bring about an agreement between the coal operators and union officials so that the mines can be turned back to their private owners. The major disagreement between the two groups is over wages and hours.

Streamlined Congress

There will be less than half as many regular committees in Congress this year as there have been in the past. A measure was passed during the last session providing for only 34 committees instead of 81. The House will have 19 and the Senate 15.

This reduction plan is expected to increase the efficiency of congressmen. With so many committees in operation, it was not unusual for a senator or representative to serve on five to seven of them. Obviously he could not do his best work when he had to spread his efforts over such a wide area.

Moreover, the problems of many of the committees overlapped or were of a related nature. For example, three different committees in the House of



UNITED NATIONS CAPITOL? Modern buildings will be erected for the UN's permanent home in New York City. Overlooking the East River, they will be built on land purchased with a gift of \$8,500,000 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Plans for the buildings have not yet been announced, but this artist's sketch suggests one possibility.

Representatives dealt in one way or another with veterans' problems.

In addition to having fewer committees, congressmen will also receive more expert assistance. Each of the committees is to have a staff of specialists to help the members obtain facts and information on the problems which they are studying. Until now, members of Congress have not had nearly enough research aid.

These reforms are being widely hailed because of the important law-making role played by the committees of Congress. Before bills reach the floor of either house, they are thoroughly studied and debated by committees. These groups hold hearings, inviting both friends and critics of the bills to express their views. If a measure does not win majority approval of the committee to which it is sent, it has very little chance of becoming a law. Although the members of Congress as a whole can vote to act upon a bill rejected by a committee, in actual fact such a step is very rarely

taken by the nation's lawmakers. The committee decision is usually followed.

Spreading Hatred

Hatred of Negroes, hatred of Jews, and ability to pay a three-dollar membership fee—these are the requirements for belonging to a certain organization. It sounds like one which would flourish in Nazi Germany, but it's right here in the United States.

Last summer, a group of people got together in Georgia to form an organization for terrorizing Negroes. Calling themselves the Columbians, they began a program of violence.

Now Georgia's attorney general is trying to break up the Columbians. He says they want to take control of the state and eventually of the entire nation. He has considerable evidence of their attacks on Negroes. Witnesses have testified that the Columbians also have a list of prominent white people "to be beaten up or lynched."

What kind of person joins such an organization? Some reporters who have been studying the Columbians say that the group attracts mainly one type—the person who has been disappointed with life and wants to "get even" by persecuting others.

Latin American Treaty

President Peron's latest move to strengthen Argentina is a trade treaty with Chile. This agreement lowers tariffs on the Argentine food Chile needs and also on the Chilean coal, oil, and metals Argentina wants to import. Argentina gets the right to use the Chilean port of Valparaiso on the Pacific. Chile gets a loan of almost 150 million dollars, part of which will be used for a railroad between Argentina and Valparaiso.

Of course the new treaty will give both countries certain advantages. But it is widely believed that Argentina will benefit most. What she gets will help build up her industry and military power.

Some observers compare the agreement with those that Hitler made with small neighbors when he was strengthening Germany. This is a treaty which ties together the economic systems of a strong country—Argentina—and a weaker one—Chile. Such an agreement usually makes the stronger country still more powerful while making the weaker one dependent upon it. The United States is closely watching Argentina's efforts to build up her power.

Agreement on Austria

Russia's recent change of heart toward Austria promises to have important results. It will undoubtedly ease the problems of the Austrian government and it should improve relations among the great powers throughout central Europe.

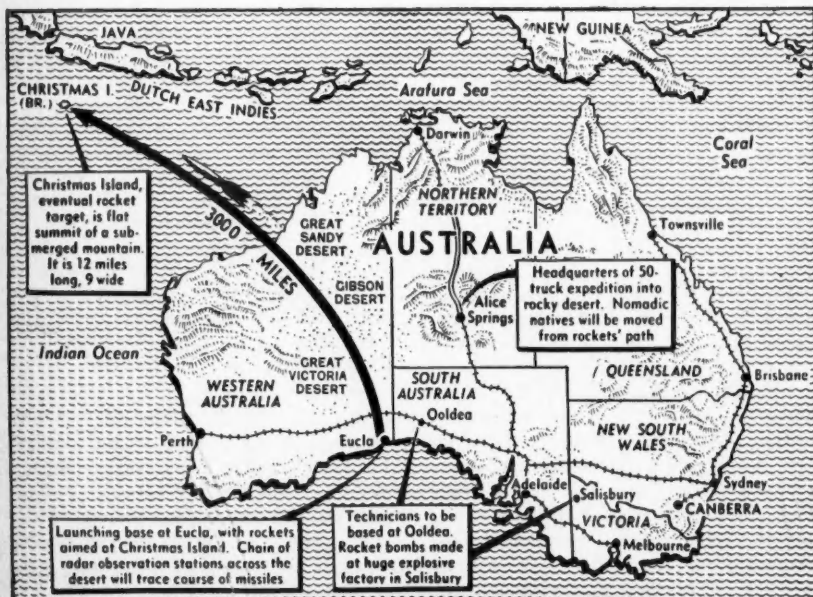
Until recently, the Russians had a stern policy. They blocked British and American plans for regulating the distribution of food. They kept huge forces in the country, and they drained off what few resources remained after the devastations of war.

Now, however, they are cooperating with the British and us on the food problem and several other issues. Also, they have announced that they mean to withdraw all their troops from Austria by about the middle of 1947. This withdrawal program has already begun on a fairly large scale.

India Still Divided

The Assembly which was to give India a new constitution has not made much progress so far. The biggest obstacle in its path is the fact that the Moslem League, representing India's millions of Mohammedans, has refused to send delegates. Moslem Leaguers have stayed away because they do not see any chance that the Assembly will give them what they want—an independent Moslem state in northern India.

If the Assembly writes a constitution without Moslem approval, it will



WORLD'S LARGEST SHOOTING GALLERY. Britain is planning a 3,000-mile rocket range which will extend across western Australia and the Indian Ocean to Christmas Island. Some of the rocket bombs which are released will travel only a few hundred miles, but others will go the entire length of the range.

undoubtedly run into new difficulties with Britain. The British feel that they cannot approve an Indian government formed by Hindus alone, even though they greatly outnumber the Moslems. As England sees it, such a move would give the green light to civil war in India.

Yet Hindu leaders seem determined to go ahead in the Assembly. Some have hinted that they mean to proceed whether Britain approves or not. There has been talk of a declaration of independence which would challenge Britain to get out of India immediately or else try to hold the country by force.

A Film to See

The American pioneer family lived in a strange and exciting world of its own. Making a living was a daily challenge, and adventure was always on the horizon. There were hardships, but there was always beauty and drama in frontier life.

This is one reason why you will like the new movie, *The Yearling*. The picture shows the life of a family pioneering in the Florida wilderness. You will also like the movie because of the fine performances of its stars. Gregory Peck and Jane Wyman give excellent portrayals of the father and mother in the family. Young Claude Jarman, Jr., does particularly well in



"The Yearling," from which this scene is taken, is an exceptionally fine film.

his role of Jody, a lonely boy who finds happiness in the companionship of a pet fawn.

The Yearling owes much of its merit to the book from which it was taken. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' novel of the same name won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction some years ago.

Inflation in Cars

Anyone who buys a new car from a dealer today will find the price only slightly higher than it was under OPA controls. But this does not mean that the automobile market is free of inflation.

The real price rise has come in "slightly used" cars—cars which have seen little or no service but which have changed hands once or more since leaving the factory. Often these cars sell for a great deal more than new models.

Authorized dealers now charge \$50 to \$100 more for their cars than they did under price ceilings. But the slightly used car is something else again. Although a new Plymouth sedan now sells for about \$1,350, a Washington, D. C., newspaper recently carried advertisements for slightly used

cars of this make at around \$2,300. The same paper listed Buicks which had been driven only a short distance at between \$3,200 and \$3,500. These same Buicks cost about \$2,250 new. Slightly used Cadillacs which cost about \$4,700 from regular dealers were offered for sale at \$5,800.

Army and Navy

President Truman's new order rearranging the armed forces is designed to bring our military services back to wartime efficiency. Now the Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force groups in each important defense area will be under a single commanding officer, just as they were during the war.

Since the fighting ended, our military forces have been drifting back to their prewar system, in which the different branches in each area were responsible to separate commanders. This alarmed many people who believe that our unpreparedness at Pearl Harbor was partly due to the fact that each service was working separately with no single commander to keep their operations in line with overall strategy.

Of course, the permanent combining of our military services is far from complete. The Army and Navy are still under separate cabinet departments. Whether it would be wise to unite these departments is still an open question.

Peace Treaties

Peace treaties for Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Finland will probably be signed next month. The settlements provide for several boundary adjustments and for extensive reparations—payments the defeated countries must make to the nations they damaged during the war. One of the treaties also places the Adriatic port of Trieste under United Nations control.

Months of effort have gone into the making of these treaties. Last fall, the Paris Peace Conference was held to give our smaller allies a chance to express their views. Then the Big Four foreign ministers, representing the United States, Britain, France, and Russia, went to New York to do the final work. As finally written, the treaties represent compromises on the part of all the major nations.

Now, nothing remains except the signing. The problem of regulating commerce on the Danube River will be worked out at a special conference sometime next summer. Treaties for Germany and Austria will be discussed in March when the Big Four Foreign Ministers meet in Moscow.

Few American students need to be told that this is the season for basketball. The game is one of the most popular in the nation. A recent survey of 26,000 high schools showed that basketball is played more than baseball and football combined.

Pronunciations

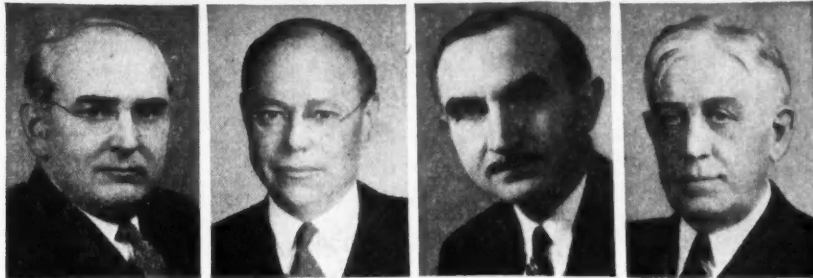
Canberra—can' ber uh (u as in fun)

Eucla—you' cluh (u as in club)

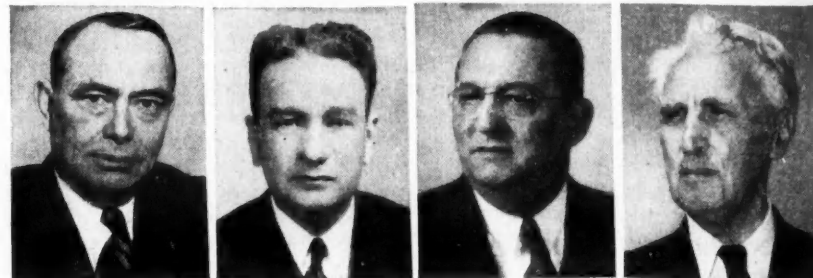
Ooldea—ool' (rhymes with school)

Peron—pay roan'

pro tempore—tempore rhymes with memory



REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN SENATE. From left to right, Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, Robert Taft of Ohio, Wayne Morse of Oregon, and Wallace White of Maine



REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN HOUSE. From left to right, Joseph Martin of Massachusetts, Charles Halleck of Indiana, Clarence Brown of Ohio, and Charles Eaton of New Jersey.

Congressional Leaders

THE men whose pictures appear in these two columns are leaders in the new Congress. Since the Republicans are in a majority in both houses, they will hold all the key posts and chairmanships of committees. The Democratic leaders will seek to gain as much support as they can in Congress for President Truman's program. Following are the Republican chieftains:

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, of Michigan, is expected to be president pro tempore (presiding officer) of the Senate. In addition, he will definitely be chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Robert Taft, of Ohio, will be chairman of either the Finance or Labor Committee, more likely the latter. He will also play an active role in introducing bills and debating important measures.

Senator Wayne Morse, of Oregon, will be most prominent as a leader of the "liberal" or "progressive" Republicans. He favors more government activity in the nation's economic life than do most members of his party, and he will work hard to get his ideas adopted.

Senator Wallace White, of Maine, will be the majority floor leader in the upper house. He will attempt to keep the Republican senators united on all important issues.

Representative Joseph Martin, of Massachusetts, is to be Speaker of the House. As presiding officer of that body, he will have much influence.

Representative Charles Halleck, of Indiana, appears almost certain to ob-

tain the post of majority floor leader in the House. He will try to keep the Republican team intact in the House just as White will in the Senate.

Representative Clarence Brown, of Ohio, hails from Senator Taft's State. He is expected to work for much of Taft's program, and to be influential in the House.

Representative Charles Eaton, of New Jersey, will probably be chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. His views on international problems carry weight in the House.

Among the more prominent Democratic leaders in Congress are these:

Senator Alben Barkley, of Kentucky, will be minority floor leader in the Senate. He will strive to get the Democrats in that body to work and vote in harmony. He had the same job when the Democrats were in control. During that time, he was majority floor leader.

Senator James Murray, of Montana, is an outstanding leader of the "liberal" Democrats. He wants the government to work actively in the effort to improve social and economic conditions among the low-income groups.

Representative Sam Rayburn, of Texas, was Speaker of the House when the Democrats were in control. He is now, by request, an ordinary Democratic representative without any official title. His influence, however, will continue to be considerable.

Representative John McCormack, of Massachusetts, will be the minority floor leader in the House. He was majority leader when the Democrats were in power.



LEADING DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS. From left to right, Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky, Senator James Murray of Montana, Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas, and Representative John McCormack of Massachusetts.

Disarmament

(Concluded from page 1)

demand, and the naval limitation program came to an end.

Later the League of Nations tried again. From 1932 to 1935 the member nations talked about disarmament. The delegates in the disarmament conference heard a dramatic appeal by Litvinoff, Russia's Foreign Minister. He urged that each nation should, within a year, wipe out all its land, sea, and air armaments. His proposal also called for an end to conscription, military staffs, and war departments.

The Soviet Union was not so strong then as it is now. The Russians feared an attack which they might not be able to repel, and they thought they would be safer if all countries did away with their armed forces.

Lack of Vision

Other countries, as it turned out, were in equal danger, but they did not see it. They were not ready for total disarmament, or even for arms limitation. So they debated but took no action. The conference failed completely, and this failure was one of the most tragic events of human history.

While this conference was debating but not acting, war clouds were again rolling over Europe and Asia. Hitler came to power in Germany and the Nazis were rearming as the nations which had won the First World War stood idly by. The storm broke in 1939 and soon the whole world was writhing in the anguish of war.

After six terrible years, during which civilization was brought to the verge of collapse in many nations, the Germans and the Japanese were crushed. Peace came to the world in 1945, but it was an uneasy peace. The victorious nations remained, and still remain, armed to the teeth. Impoverished populations still writhe under the weight of armaments. Living standards are still depressed in order that governments may fashion instruments

of destruction. Armed nations glower at each other and plain people, the world over, tremble at the thought of another war.

The armament problem is more serious, more immediately threatening today than it has ever been during all the long centuries of the past. Recent inventions have multiplied the possibilities of destruction. Atomic bombs, rockets, improved planes, deadly germs are the modern swords which we must "beat into plowshares" if there is to be safety in any corner of the globe.

Fortunately the United Nations is aware of the burden and the danger that hang over the world. That organization, after months of inaction and discord, is now tackling the disarmament problem in earnest. Agreement on the main lines of action has already been reached. Many difficulties must still be overcome, and conflicting points of view must be reconciled or compromised if the disarmament effort is to succeed.

So serious are some of the remaining problems that many people are pessimistic about the outcome. They point to past failures and ask how we can expect nations today, embittered, suspicious and fearful as they are, to succeed at a job which has been too much for conferences of the past.

It would be a mistake, of course, to be overconfident at this stage of the negotiations. However, in certain important respects, prospects are now much more favorable than they have ever been in the past. Those who expect success from the present deliberations base their hopes on the following facts:

Four Hopeful Signs

1. All the great nations, except those which were defeated in the war, are members of the United Nations. After the First World War the United States refused to join the League of Nations, and Russia did not become a member until years after the League had been organized.

2. Because of the fact that all the great powers, and nearly all the coun-



"I don't like what they're saying about us"

HERBLOCK IN WASHINGTON POST

tries of the world, are participating in the UN, a strong system of collective security may be put into operation. The League of Nations tried to put such a plan into effect, but it was too weak and divided to do so.

3. The nations agree not only that a disarmament plan should be adopted, but that an international commission should have the power to enter any country, inspect its armaments, and find out whether it is obeying the disarmament rules.

When the present negotiations began it was feared that Russia would not consent to a strong inspection program. It was thought that she would not allow a UN commission to go into the Soviet Union to see whether atomic bombs were being produced, or whether other rules concerning disarmament were being followed. Recently, however, Foreign Minister Molotov has assured the delegates of the United Nations that his country will support an inspection plan.

4. In the course of the recent discussions in New York, it has been agreed that the United Nations shall take immediate action against any country which produces armaments in violation of the rules which may be established. It has also been decided that, as soon as possible, an international police force shall be organized to enforce disarmament provisions. This is a necessary step toward making disarmament effective.

Agreement on these points are tentative and in general terms. When the time comes to set them down in definite form many difficulties will no doubt be encountered. A number of unsolved problems have already appeared. There will be long negotiations, and compromises must be made.

Whether or not an effective international program of disarmament will finally be adopted is still uncertain. It can be said, however, that issues which, in the past, have been neglected are now being brought out into the open and candidly discussed. During the last few weeks, definite progress has been made toward the disarmament goal. This year may tell the story of success or failure in this life-and-death matter.

Readers Say—

Some time ago a reader said there should be more agreement between the Republican and Democratic Parties. I question the worth of this suggestion.

I have always believed that competition was the life of politics. For instance, the Republican opposition to the New Deal served a twofold purpose. First, it forced the American people to a decision on government regulation as opposed to free enterprise. Second, it required that the Democrats put the New Deal into effect in its most effective form.

WILLIAM JONES,
Franklin, Pennsylvania.

It appears that the present situation in Greece might become very serious. Parties within the country disagree over what kind of government it should have, and outside that nation Britain and Russia differ over policies for Greece. I think Russia, Greece, and Britain should try to come to some agreement among themselves. If they do not, I think the United Nations should do something.

DALE BAKER,
Teasdale, Utah.

The veto power in the UN Security Council, in my opinion, should be abolished. It is undemocratic. I cannot see how security for the whole world can be attained if one country's vote can make null and void a measure which might be vital to world peace.

SUSAN WILLIAMS,
Rochester, New York.

Our social studies class favors the veto power in the Security Council. Complete unanimity is necessary among the Big Five if positive action is to be taken. If majority rule were to be exercised, the Big Five would split up into coalitions, and antagonisms between the coalitions would undermine the Council.

IAN LENNOX,
Houghton, New York.

I should like to suggest that young people interested in advancing world peace investigate an organization known as the Student Federalists. I am not a member of this organization, but am seriously thinking of starting a branch. I became interested in the Student Federalists when my mother gave me a book by Harris Wofford, the organization's founder. The book is entitled *It's Up To Us*.

I am sure your readers who are interested in world problems will want to read this book. They may write to the World Federalists, World Government House, 31 East 74 Street, New York 21, New York, for more information.

MICHAEL DREW,
Neenah, Wisconsin.

SMILES

A society woman had engaged a famous violinist to play at one of her social functions. She tactfully explained to him that since he was an entertainer she thought it would be better if he did not mingle with the guests.

"In that case, madam," he said, "my fee will be much smaller."

★ ★ ★

When little Claude's mother took her precious child to school on the first day, she told the teacher:

"My Claude is so sensitive that you should never punish him directly. If he does something wrong, just slap the boy next to him, and that will frighten Claude."



DAY IN COLLIER'S

"Don't be alarmed—his aim is terrible"

"Doctor," inquired the anxious patient, "how long after I take the anesthetic will it be before I know anything?"

"My dear sir, aren't you expecting too much from the anesthetic?"

★ ★ ★

"I'm sorry," said the diner, "but I haven't any money to pay for that meal."

"That's all right," said the cashier. "We'll write your name on the wall and you can pay the next time you come in."

"Don't do that. Everybody who comes in will see it."

"Oh, no, they won't. Your overcoat will be hanging over it."

★ ★ ★

"Perhaps you'd better fetch the manager, young woman," snapped the fussy customer. "No doubt he'll have more sense than you seem to have."

"He certainly has, madam. He went out when he saw you come in."

★ ★ ★

A football coach was explaining a few plays to the earnest substitutes. He said, "Suppose the ball is on the four-yard line, last down, one minute to play, and we are three points behind. What would you do, Joe?"

"I'd move down the bench where I could see better!"

★ ★ ★

Customer: "Well, I guess I'm ready to go."

Saleslady: "Pardon, madam, here's the hat you bought; that's the box you're wearing."

Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey

LABOR unions, which play such an important part in American economic life today, did not exist in the colonial period of our history. They first appeared shortly after the Constitution was adopted.

A local shoemakers' union was formed in Philadelphia while George Washington was President. Unions of carpenters, printers, and tailors were also formed in several cities at that time. These unions made slow progress, however, because they were unpopular with most of the people and because, under the English Common Law, which still had much influence in America, such organizations were illegal.

Despite difficulties, a number of unions were formed in the early 1800's, and they gained ground rapidly during the presidency of Andrew Jackson. These were all small local organizations and they did not have much power.

Just before the Civil War, some of the local unions were formed into national organizations, but it was not until after the Civil War that the formation of national unions on a large scale took place. At that time, the unions of many different industries were united in a national organization known as the Knights of Labor. It opened its ranks to all workers, whether skilled or unskilled, men or women, white or colored. Its membership reached one million during the 1880's, but after that it quickly declined.

The American Federation of Labor, organized in the 1880's, was formed on a different principle and was more successful. It was made up largely of craft unions to which only skilled workers could belong. Under the leadership of Samuel Gompers, it gained great strength, but did not emphasize labor's influence in politics.

Other national unions formed at this time included the four railroad brotherhoods and the United Mine Workers.

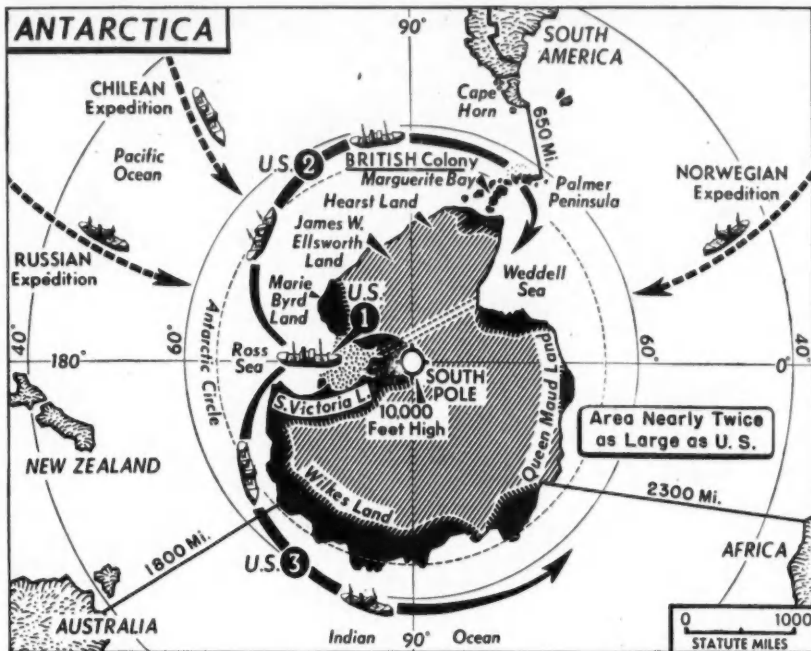
Although labor unions by this time were no longer considered illegal, many employers attempted to prevent their growth. They discharged workers who joined a union, and refused to bargain with union representatives on matters of wages and working conditions. To remedy this situation, the Wagner Act was passed in 1935 (see article in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, December 16).



David S. Muzzey

Hailed as a "New Magna Carta for Labor," this Act reinforced the right of workers to join any union they chose. It required each employer to negotiate over wages, hours, and other working conditions with the union favored by a majority of workers. It also forbade employers to engage in certain "unfair labor practices" named in the Act.

Since the passage of the Wagner Act the number of union members has increased from 4 million to more than 14 million.



The season of exploration is on at the South Pole

Race Is On to Antarctica

Admiral Richard Byrd Is Speeding Our Expedition to Compete with Exploring Forces of Other Countries

THE American expedition which will explore Antarctica this month and next under the leadership of Admiral Richard E. Byrd is out to accomplish two things. The scientists in the party hope to obtain more information about the frozen "Seventh Continent," and the expedition as a whole will keep the United States in the world race to claim portions of the vast barren region which surrounds the South Pole.

The race is on in earnest, with expeditions from at least four and perhaps six countries scheduled to visit Antarctica this year. In addition to the American force, explorers will be on hand to represent Britain, Norway, and Russia, while Chile and Argentina hope to have men there, too.

This intense interest on the part of so many countries arises from the belief that there is a wealth of resources waiting to be tapped in Antarctica. Under a heavy crust of ice, scientists have found evidence that coal, copper, silver, zinc, and other valuable minerals exist in great quantities. Some of them think it likely that oil is also to be found. And there is a possibility that uranium, used in manufacturing atomic materials, will be discovered.

The exploring nations are looking ahead to the day when the world has used up the natural resources of the temperate zones. At that time, they want to be ready to share in the possible wealth of the Antarctic.

But that is not the only reason for their interest in the bleak continent. Even before it may become necessary to obtain raw materials there, nations will want to plant weather outposts in the land of the penguins.

Admiral Byrd has proposed this very move, pointing out that "more weather is made there than anywhere else on earth." As he explains it, "The land is very high, and gravity brings the cold down to the sea. Then

the terrific winds sweep it away to chill other parts of the world." He therefore thinks that long-range weather forecasting could be carried on in this region where the weather is "made."

As a possible location for colonies, of course, Antarctica has nothing to offer. The highest of the continents, it is also the coldest. The temperature often drops to 80 degrees below zero, and the ice which covers the land averages a third of a mile in thickness. Terrible gales sweep across the land.

So it is no wonder that few signs of life are to be found in Antarctica—an area almost twice the size of the United States. Penguins are the only creatures which stay around throughout the year, but the summer brings fish-eating birds, whales, and seals which feed on fish in the surrounding waters.

Many people are concerned over the possibility that the Antarctic may become a source of friction among nations. To avoid dangerous rivalries over the polar region, it is being suggested that the United Nations should take charge of it. According to this view, the UN could establish weather outposts in the Antarctic and develop its resources for world use without risking an international conflict.



Admiral Byrd

Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

A CERTAIN American newspaper strongly supports a policy of cooperation with Russia. It argues that the United States and the Soviet Union must find a way to get along together if there is to be peace.

Recently this same newspaper carried an article describing the activities of the Communist Party in the United States. The article told how American communism thrives on the discords in our national life, and why the movement is hostile to our democratic system.

After the article appeared, the editor received a number of letters saying that the newspaper was inconsistent. "How could the paper advocate cooperation with Russia," asked the letters, "and at the same time oppose communism—the system under which the Russians live?" The writers of the letters argued that American opposition to communism would irritate the Russians and would make cooperation with that nation impossible.

As a matter of fact, the newspaper was not being inconsistent. It did not call for American interference with communism in Russia. Time and again, it has taken the stand that the Russians should have the kind of government and the kind of industrial system which they want. Likewise, the paper maintains, Americans should have the same freedom to choose their form of government and industry.

Unlike the Russians, of course, we can freely discuss systems of government and industry other than our own. With our freedom of speech and thought, we Americans can talk for or against communism—or any other program. That is an opportunity which Russians do not enjoy.

Communist Russia and democratic America can get along together if each country recognizes the right of the other to manage its own internal affairs. Thus, the newspaper referred to above was not inconsistent in criticizing communism within our country while at the same time recognizing that the United States and Russia must get along in world affairs to avoid another disastrous war.



Your Vocabulary

In each of the following sentences, match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 3, for correct answers.

1. His *lucid* presentation of the subject surprised us all. (a) clear (b) thoughtful (c) interesting (d) humorous.
2. She used some *trite* expressions. (a) suitable (b) vague (c) commonplace (d) snappy.
3. He *repudiated* the agreement. (a) renewed (b) rejected (c) shortened (d) strengthened.
4. The author's style was *verbose*.

(a) clear (b) confused (c) wordy (d) artistic.

5. Elmer's *procrastination* cost him the chance to go on the expedition. (a) selfishness (b) carelessness (c) disorderliness (d) delay.

6. Nothing could keep John from thinking of the *ignominy* which he had brought on his family. (a) sorrow (b) expense (c) disgrace (d) misfortune.

7. The project was a *fiasco*. (a) big success (b) ridiculous failure (c) difficult task (d) expensive undertaking.

8. She sent *condolences*. (a) preserves (b) congratulations (c) good wishes (d) expressions of sympathy.

Careers for Tomorrow - - Designing Products

FUTURE prospects for industrial designers and draftsmen appear to be promising. These are two different jobs, although they are closely related and the early preparation for them is much the same.

The industrial designer must have imagination as well as technical and inventive skill. His work is to design machines or mechanical products—kitchen utensils, alarm clocks, cash registers, locomotives, and so forth.

The designer does not work out a complete blueprint of his product. He sketches the overall pattern, and the industrial draftsman carries on from there. The draftsman translates the designer's plans into working drawings, which show exactly how each part of the product is to be made.

Whether one is to be a designer or a draftsman, he must be an expert mathematician. The intricate problems connected with either job require the constant use of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Skill in all three is absolutely necessary. Courses in mechanical and freehand drawing and in machine shop work are also helpful.

In addition to imagination, technical skill, and mathematical ability, the industrial designer or draftsman must have good eyes. Either job requires detailed and exacting work.

Only a small percentage of persons in this field are women. Like all branches of industry, designing and drafting expanded during the war. This should not mean however, that the fields will contract during the post-war period. As we increase our use of machines, particularly in the home, the industrial designer and the draftsman will be increasingly needed. New models to attract the buyer are the

lifeblood of many industries, and designers and draftsmen will be required to design and plan them.

All wages and salaries are changing at the present time, and it is hard to predict just what the levels will be in a few years—when the students in school now will be looking for jobs. Before the war the beginning designer was paid about \$30 a week, and the



Draftsmen and industrial designers play an important role in the industrial world.

skilled designer received from \$70 to \$100 a week. The salaries are higher now and probably range from \$35 to \$45 for inexperienced designers, and from \$75 to \$125 for experienced.

The apprentice draftsman used to receive about \$18 a week when he was regularly employed. That figure is probably up to about \$25 now. The skilled draftsman, paid at a rate of \$1.00 an hour, used to make about \$40 a week. Today he makes from \$50 to \$60.

Because their work requires more training and greater imagination and originality, the designers earn more than the draftsmen. For these same

reasons, opportunities for employment are greater for designers. On the other hand, an industrial firm will employ more draftsmen than it does designers, for one designer can sketch plans which will keep several draftsmen busy.

The student interested in either field will find most of the courses he needs in high school—algebra, geometry, trigonometry, physics, and machine shop work. He may then continue in a trade school, or he may become an apprentice. Many industrial designers also have taken some courses in engineering.

Listen to These

Two radio programs valuable for anyone who wants to increase his understanding of national and world problems are *America's Town Meeting of the Air* and the *University of Chicago Roundtable*.

Each week, on these programs, experts discuss such important topics as atomic energy, our dealings with Russia, and labor relations. Speakers are chosen to represent differing views, so that the listener gets a well-rounded picture of the problem.

The *University of Chicago Roundtable*, which describes itself as the "oldest educational program continuously on the air," is broadcast on Sundays, at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, by the National Broadcasting Company.

Town Meeting of the Air, which devotes a part of its time to answering questions from the studio audience, is broadcast on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, by the American Broadcasting Company.

Study Guide

Congress

1. What is the issue which Congress must decide about officially ending World War II?
2. What are some of the labor problems which will be considered by Congress?
3. Briefly describe the issue over government spending and taxes.
4. What problems connected with national defense will be considered by the nation's lawmakers?
5. What is the difference between the temporary and the long-range housing problems?
6. Explain the controversy over American aid to foreign nations.
7. Why is it feared by many that our lawmaking machinery may have difficulty in operating during the next two years?

Discussion

1. What, if anything, do you think Congress should do about the problem of industrial strife?
2. Do you believe the government is doing everything it could and should to deal with the nation's housing problems?
3. On the basis of your present information, do you favor the movement now under way to reduce American aid abroad from 4 billion dollars a year, which we are now spending, to 1½ billion dollars?

Outside Reading

"Government with Its Hands Tied," by Richard Lee Strout. *New Republic*, October 7, 1946. Analyzes the problem of a Republican Congress in a Democratic administration.

"Issues for the New Congress," *United States News*, November 8, 1946. General survey of problems confronting our national legislature.

Disarmament

1. Why did the League of Nations fail to adopt a disarmament program?
2. In what arms limitation plan did the United States play a leading part?
3. When did the League of Nations make its final effort to bring about a limitation of armaments, and what was Russia's attitude at the time?
4. In what ways is the United Nations a stronger organization than the League of Nations?
5. Why is there more encouragement today over the prospects of world disarmament than there was a few months ago?

Discussion

1. Is there any reason to think that the United Nations can succeed better than the League of Nations did in adopting an effective disarmament program? Explain your point of view.
2. "The United States must accept its share of responsibility for the failure to work out a disarmament plan during the period between the two world wars." Is this statement true? Why or why not?

Outside Reading

"Disarmament," by Michael Straight. *New Republic*, November 11, 1946. An examination of what real disarmament means.

"Let's Take Molotov Up," by Ernest K. Lindley, *Newsweek*, November 11, 1946. A discussion of Molotov's disarmament proposal.

"United Nations Moves Toward Disarmament," *Christian Century*, November 13, 1946. Comments on the prospects for genuine disarmament.

Miscellaneous

1. What issues concerning John L. Lewis and his miners' union will be decided by the Supreme Court in a short time from now?
2. Tell of five decisions made by the UN Assembly at its recent meeting in New York City?
3. Where will the permanent home of the UN be established, and why was that site selected?
4. Who is directing the American expedition to Antarctica? What is the purpose of this mission?
5. What organization enables young people of various lands to correspond with one another?
6. How has Chile helped Argentina to strengthen her position in South America?

Letters Exchanged Around World

Students of Various Nations Correspond

WE are all afraid of what we do not understand. Have you ever walked down a strange street in the dark? It can be a frightening experience. Perfectly harmless, every-day things look odd and menacing.

It is pretty much the same thing with people. We often fear and distrust people of other countries simply because we don't know very much about them.

The Junior Red Cross International School Correspondence plan has been set up to promote international friendship by helping young people of all nations to know one another better. You and your classmates make up a "letter-booklet" telling all about yourselves and your country, and the Junior Red Cross sees that it gets to foreign youths.

Your letter-booklet is sent on to a group of foreign students who want to correspond with young people in the United States. They will send you a letter-booklet about themselves and you may keep up the correspondence as long as you wish. Your teacher can arrange it through the Junior Red Cross chairman in your community.

What should you include in your letter-booklet? Well, suppose you were a student living in Italy or Egypt or Scotland, or almost any

foreign country. What would you like to know about America?

In the first place, you would probably like to have a general introduction to this country—a bird's eye view of the United States. What are American young people like? What goes



With the help of the Junior Red Cross, American students can now exchange letters with young people in foreign lands.

on in a typical school day? What are the most popular amusements? What is an average American home like?

In other words, start out by describing your own community. Then tell something about the region of the country in which you live. Perhaps your home is in one of the great prairie states, a "cotton state," or the

"oil country." Your foreign correspondents would like to hear about it.

Then you can go on to the nation as a whole. Discuss your favorite American heroes. Tell something about popular customs, music, sports, literature, the arts.

Near the front of your letter-booklet or album, tell something of the Junior Red Cross activities in your school. This information may be helpful to students in countries where the Junior Red Cross could not operate during the war. It will also be interesting to students in other lands.

You may want to illustrate your letter-booklet. Some student groups have pasted photographs in theirs. Others have used original sketches or watercolor paintings to illustrate their albums.

If you want further information on the Junior Red Cross International Correspondence plan for schools, your local Red Cross chapter can supply you with a pamphlet listing the important things to do and not to do.

Vocabulary Answers

1. (a) clear; 2. (c) commonplace; 3. (b) rejected; 4. (c) wordy; 5. (d) delay; 6. (c) disgrace; 7. (b) ridiculous failure; 8. (d) expressions of sympathy.